

A TALE OF TWO FIRES 2017 YOSEMITE NP WILDFIRES

SMOKE MANAGEMENT IN CALIFORNIA
A BUFFET OF NEW APPROACHES
2018 Interagency Air and Smoke Council
June 27, 2018 – Redding, CA

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Chief, Fire and Aviation
Yosemite National Park

PPE

- ▣ Policy – National in Scope
 - 2009 Guidance for Federal Wildland Fire Policy
- ▣ Planning – Local in Scope
 - 2004 Environmental Impact Statement, Yosemite Fire Management Plan; Amended 2017
 - Go-No-Go Matrix
- ▣ Execution – Incident in Scope
 - Safety of Firefighters and the Public
 - Stakeholders and Partners supportive and engaged with the Agency Administrator
 - Social/Political issues or concerns? EVERY Fire



Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy



February 13, 2009

Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy
Page 1

Wildland fires are categorized into two distinct types:

Wildfires – Unplanned ignitions or prescribed fires that are declared wildfires

Prescribed Fires - Planned ignitions.

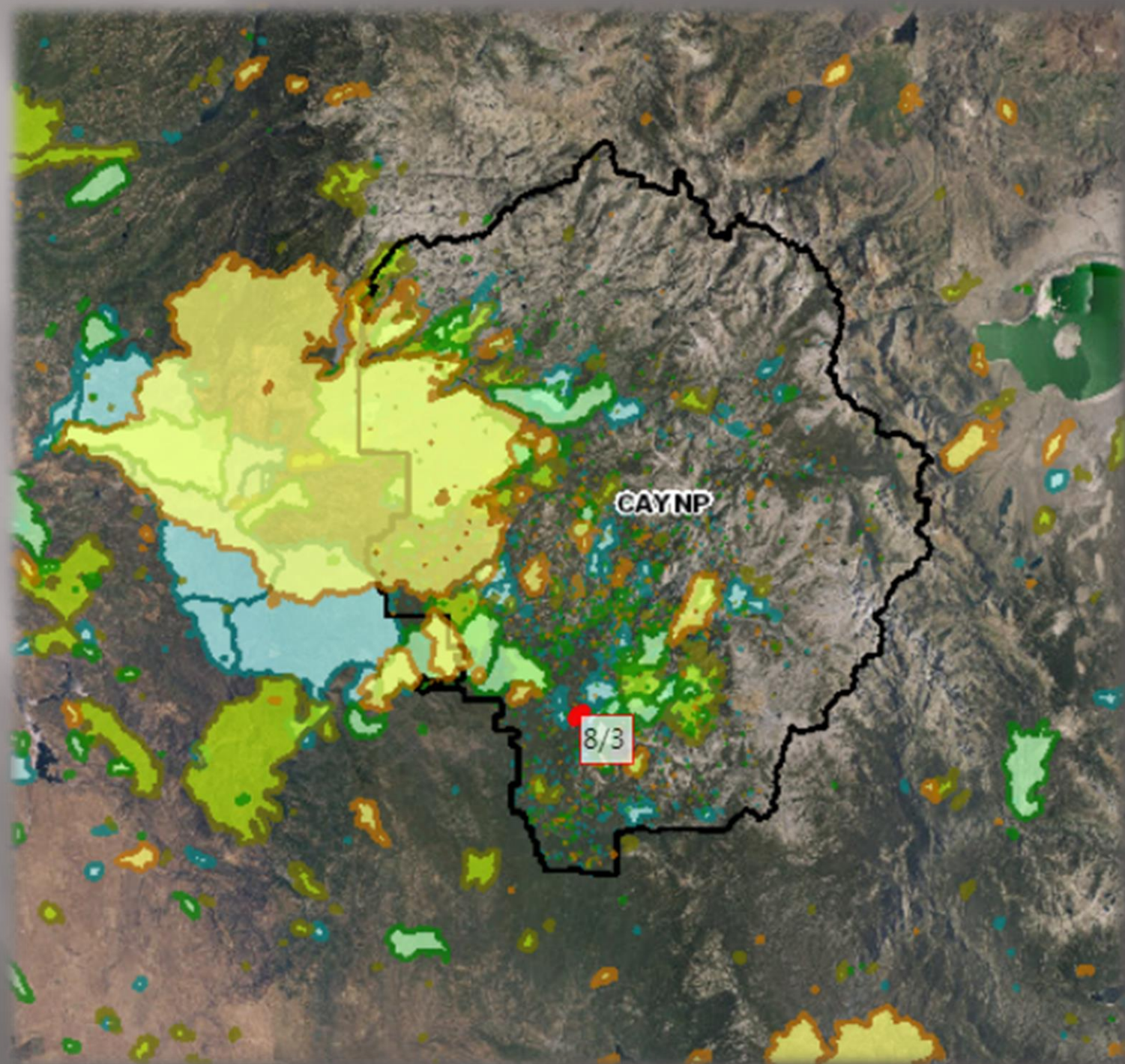
A wildfire may be concurrently managed for one or more objectives and objectives can change as the fire spreads across the landscape.

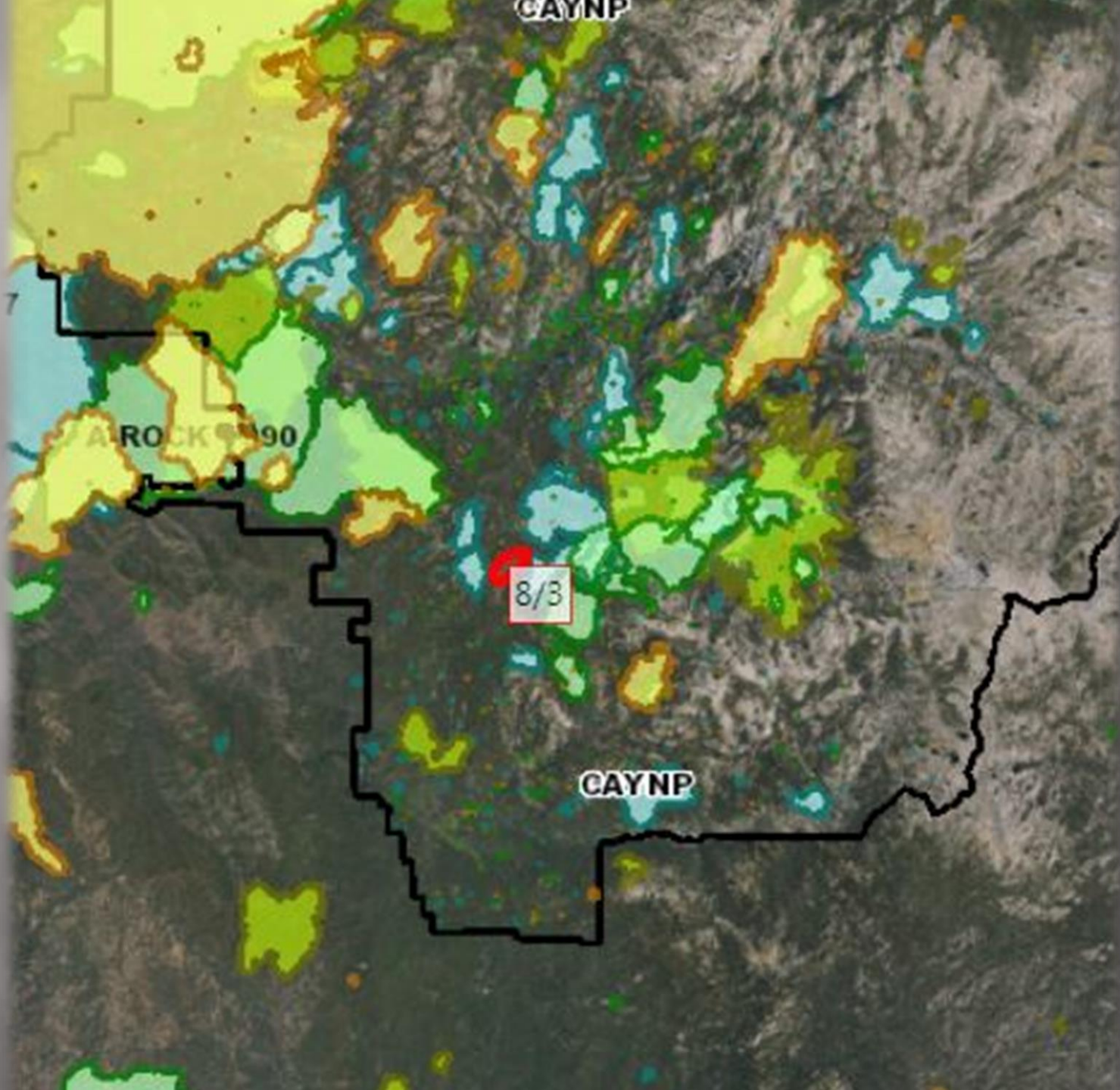
Objectives are affected by changes in fuels, weather, topography; varying social understanding and tolerance; and involvement of other governmental jurisdictions having different missions and objectives

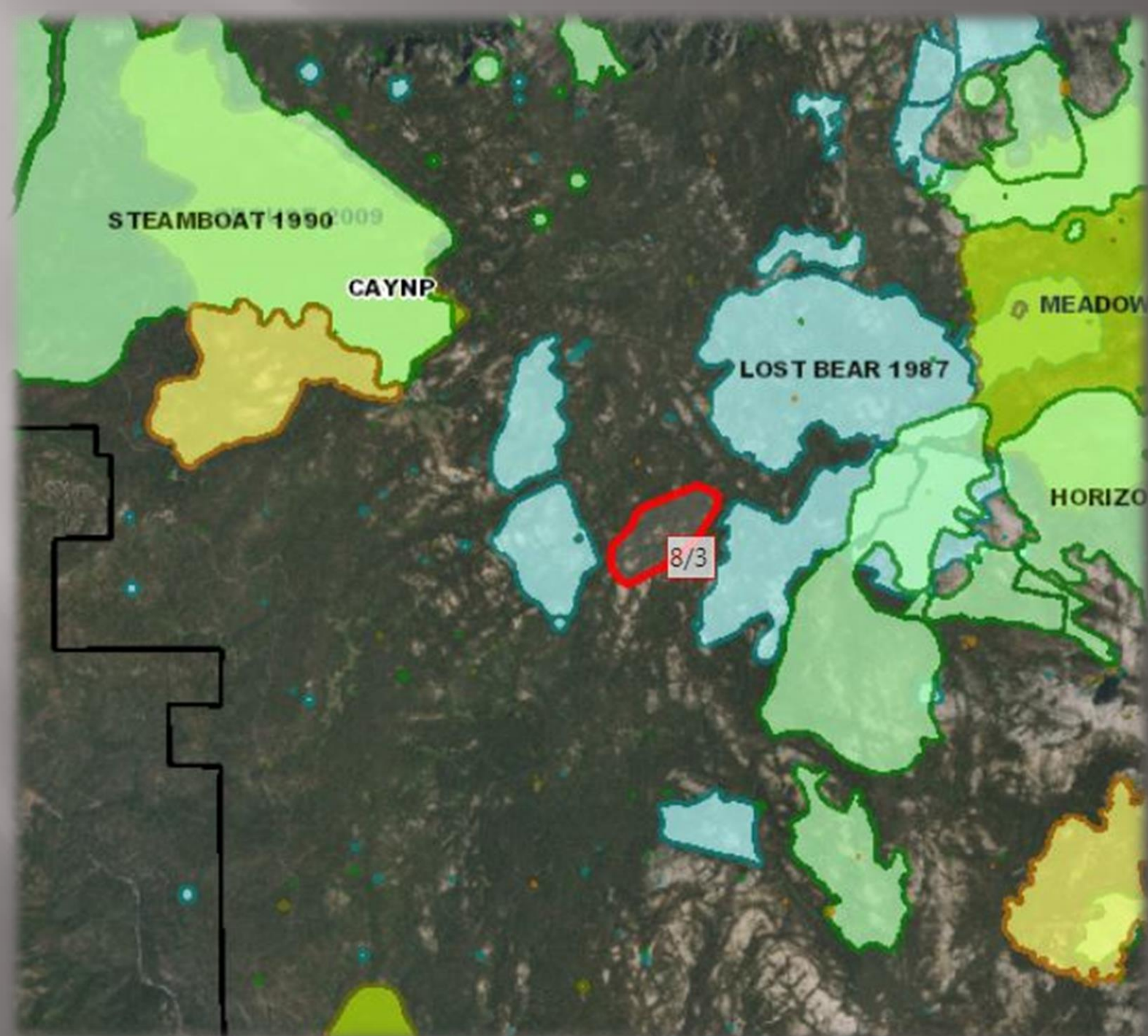
Yosemite NP Decision Matrix

- National and Regional Preparedness Level
- Manage for Resource Objectives
- Lightning density in the area of the fire start
- Fire Return Interval Departure
- Seasonality (Energy Release Component - increasing or decreasing)
- Number of resources needed to manage fire
- Barriers to fire spread
- Visitor/Resident disturbance (smoke, traffic, closures)
- Impact to holiday visitation
- Values at risk
- Regional smoke impacts from other fires
- Gateway events that could be impacted
- Are there fires in neighboring Federal units creating local demand on resources?
- County jurisdiction
- Potential to impact boundary
- Other fuels projects or wildfires in the park
- Likelihood of meeting objectives with prescribed fire

**THE WIZARD
BEHIND
THE CURTAIN**

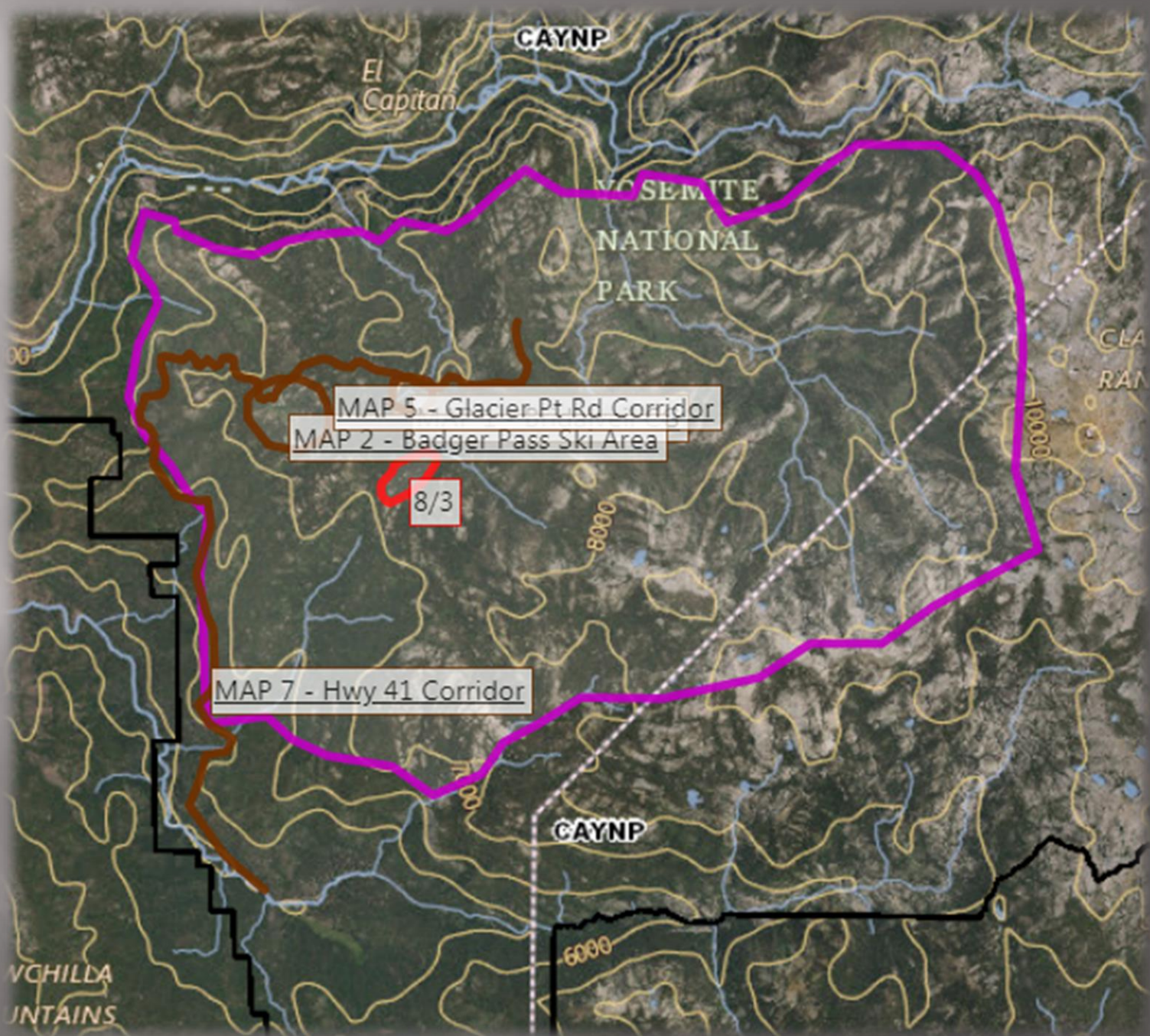








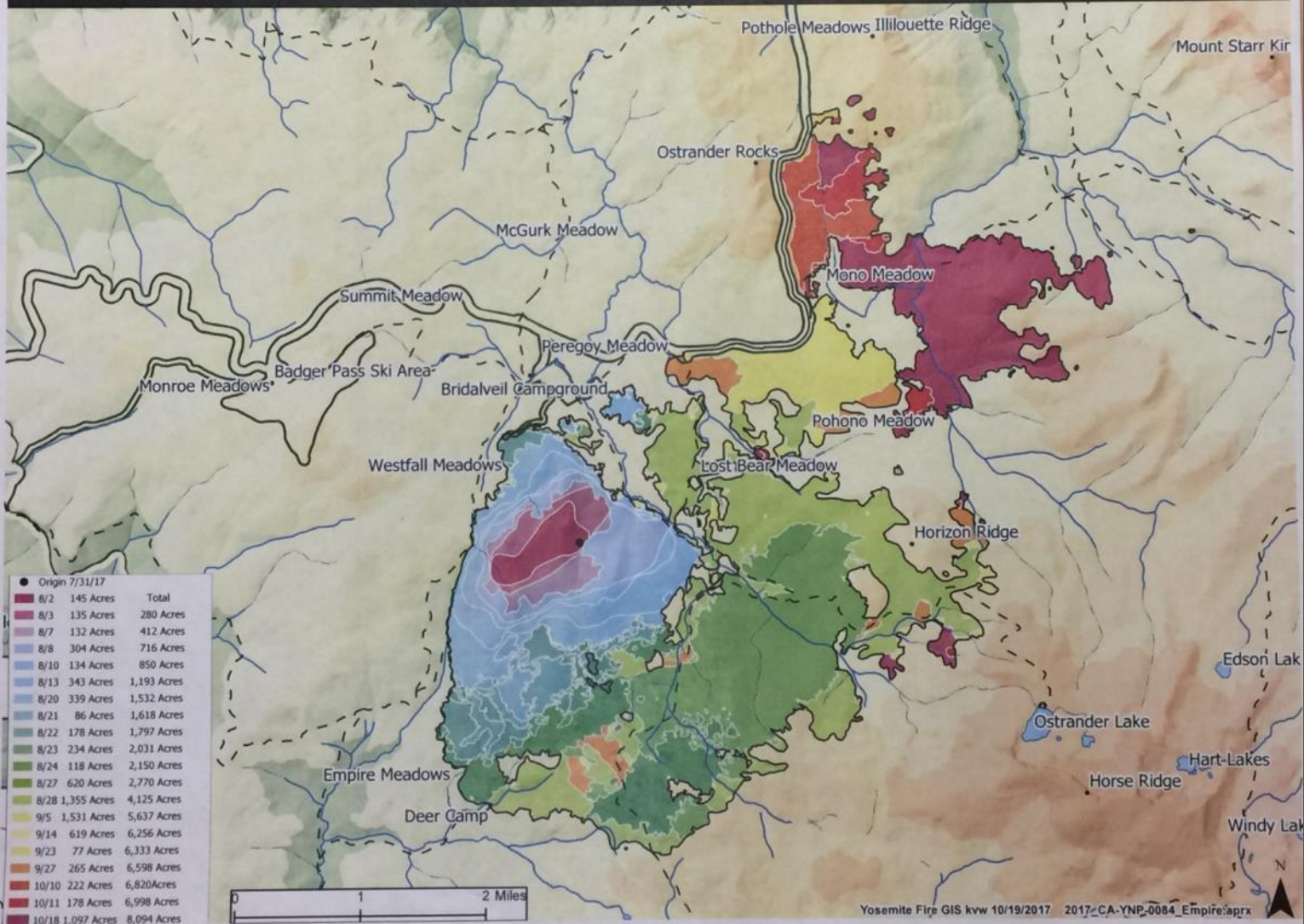
- July 31, 2017 2000 Dispatch takes a smoke report of smoke in Illiouette Basin, Hover Ck. area.
- Park helicopter will recon August 1st at 0700, if confirmed Crew 1 will hike into the fire to assess.
- Temps running above average this week with threat of thunderstorms continued through the weekend.
- Confirmed fire 7500' lightning strike low/mod fire behavior creeping smoldering low ROS 0-1 ft FL. under 1/4 acres, NE aspect lower 1/3 slope
- General area 1 mile south of Bridalveil Campground.



EMPIRE – Progression Map

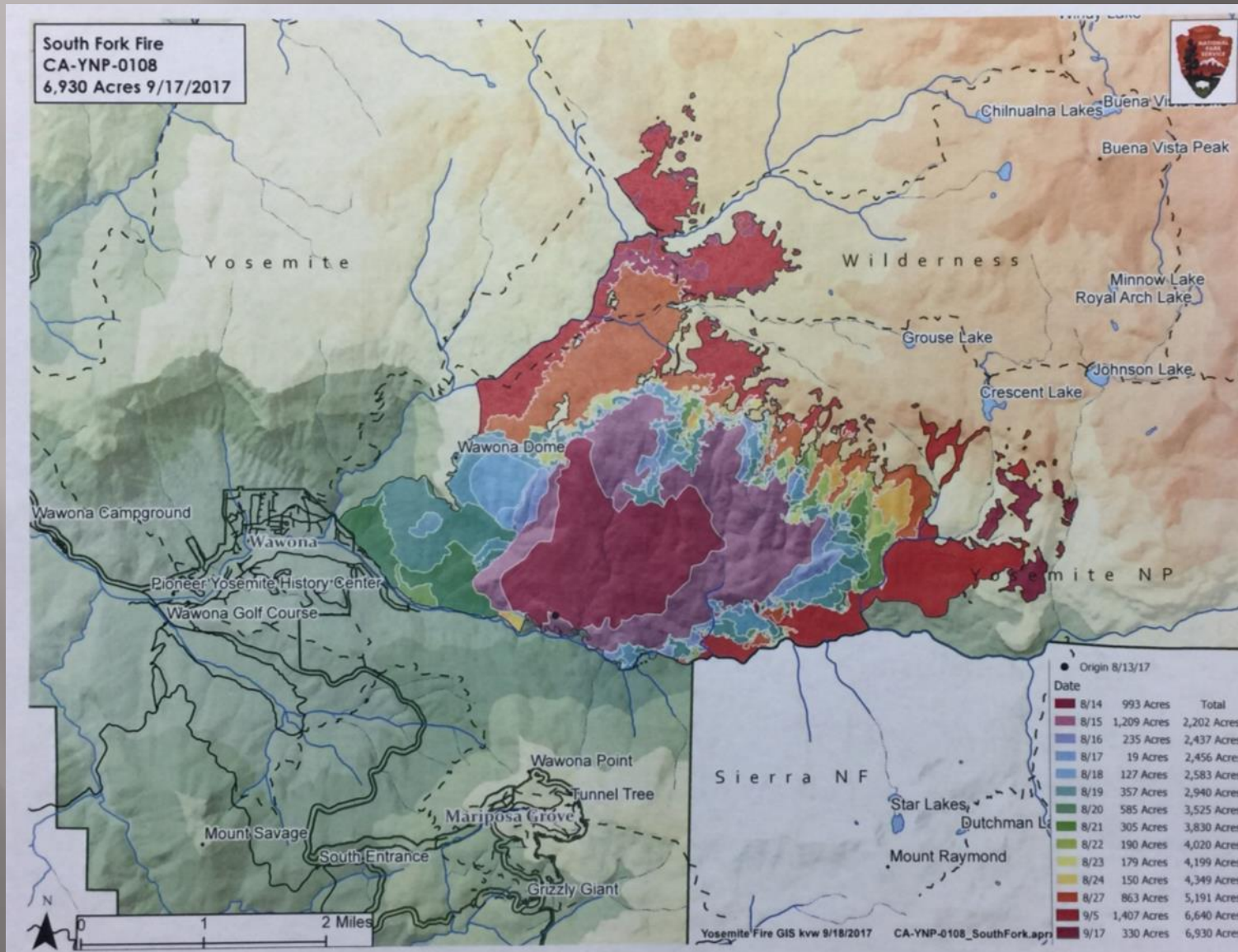
Empire Fire
CA-YNP-0084
8,094 Acres 10/18/2017

Yosemite National Park
California

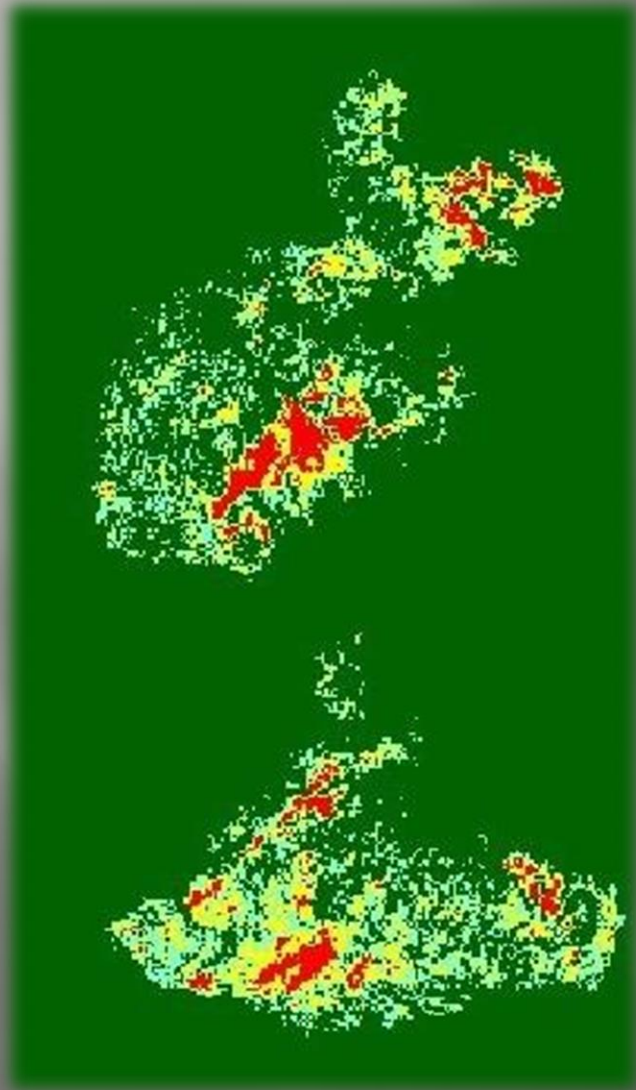




SOUTH FORK – Progression Map



Burned Area Reflectance Classification



- A Burned Area Reflectance Classification (BARC) is a satellite-derived data layer of post-fire vegetation condition.
- The BARC has four classes: high, moderate, low, and unburned.
- This product is used as an input to the soil burn severity map produced by the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) teams.

Tale of Two Fires

- Both fires meet National Wildland Fire Policy
- Both fires meet Park Fire Policy
- Active Outreach efforts: Talking Points for Public, Media, Elected Officials, GOTO presentations for APCDs
- Empire Fire
 - Protection Objectives to the north (Glacier Point Road – Visitors), west (Yosemite West) and south (Wawona)
 - Resource Objectives to the east: Wilderness
- South Fork Fire
 - Protection Objectives – Wawona and Sierra NF
 - Released Type 2 Team after 8 days; less than 50% containment; Planning level 5
 - Managed as a Type 3 incident for another 2 months

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